

Yard & Wood Waste

Ramsey County Waste Reduction Advisory Committee

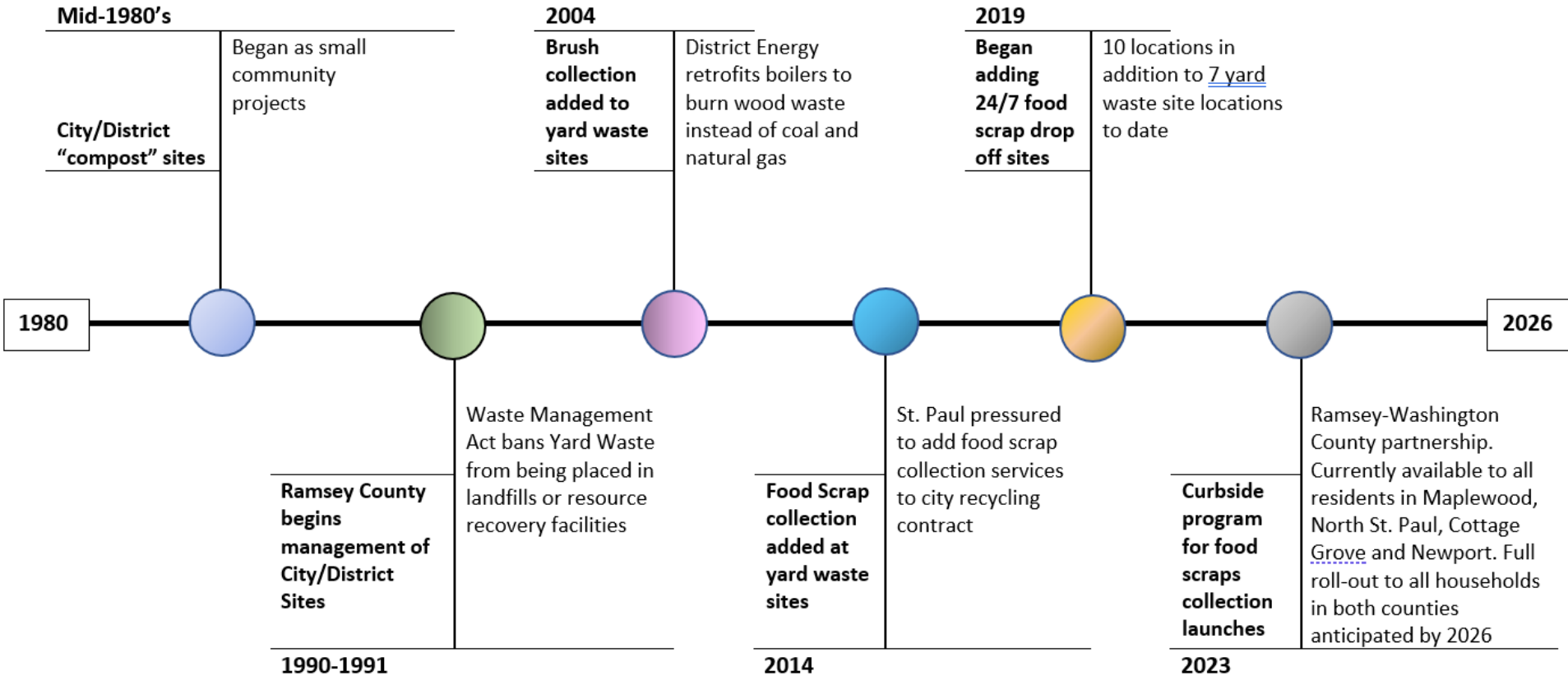
5/7/24

John Springman



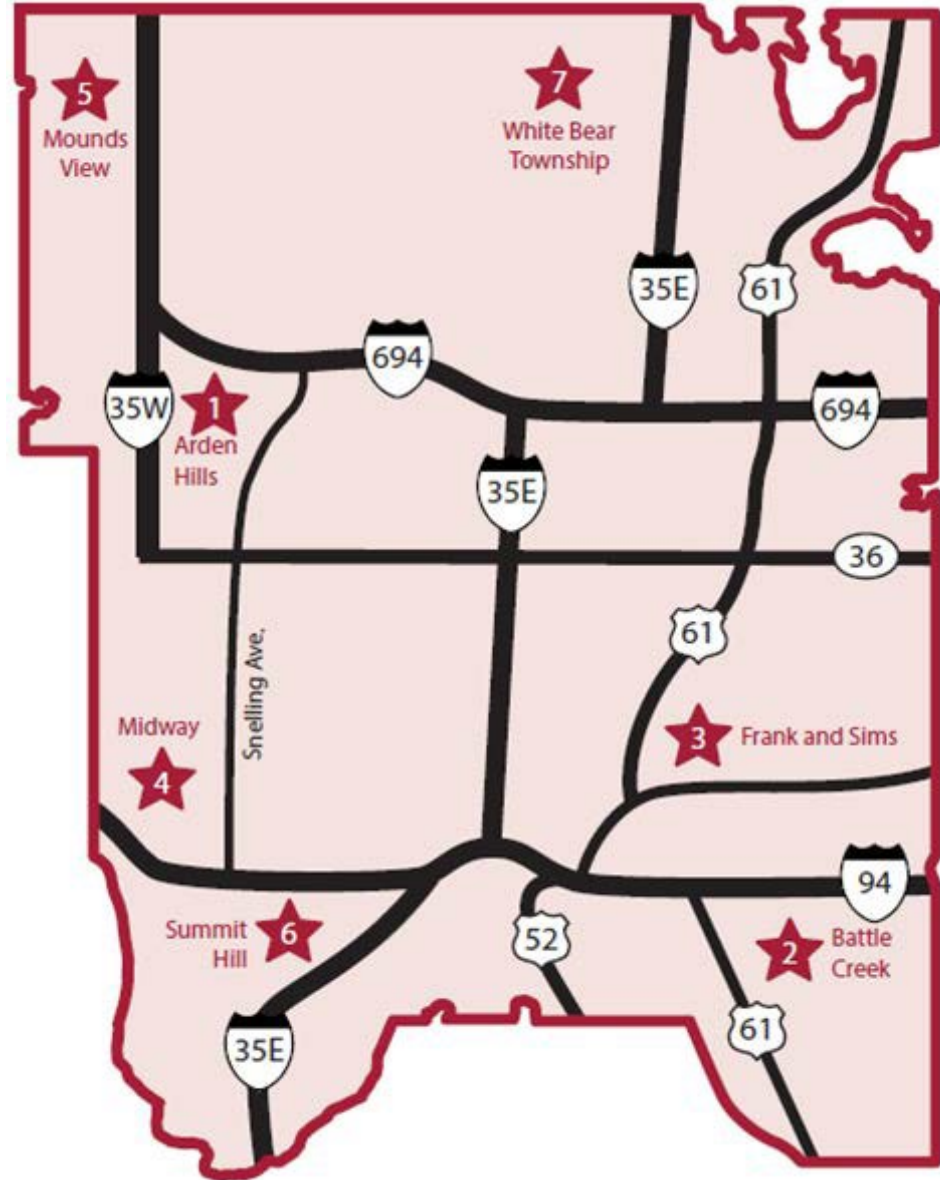
"Yard waste" means garden wastes, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, shrub and tree waste, and prunings

Program Milestones



Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites:

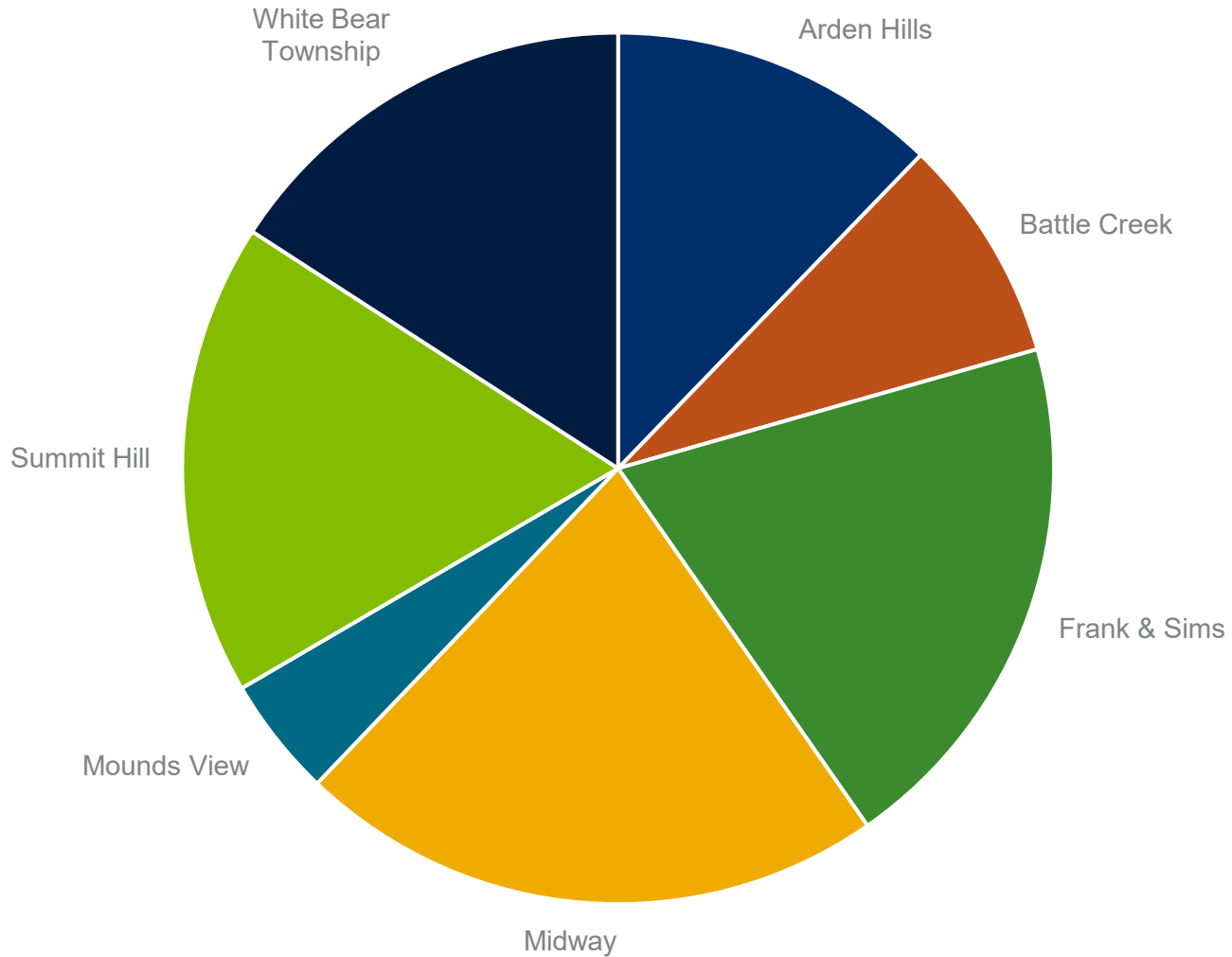
- 7 sites - residential waste only
- Open to Ramsey County residents (4 sites open to Washington County residents)
- All sites accept leaves/grass/food scraps
- 4 sites also accept tree/shrub waste
- Finished compost is produced only at the White Bear Township site but distributed to all others
- Free compost and wood mulch (when available)



Yard Waste - Accepted/Not Accepted

Yes	No
Leaves	Tree roots or stumps (below the soil)
Grass	Dirt/sod
Garden waste	Pet wastes
Fruit from trees	Structural lumber
Nuts (acorns, walnuts, etc.)	Tree waste with hardware attached
Misc. (hay/straw, vines, weeds, cattails, pine needles, corn stalks, etc.)	
Diseased plants	
Tree waste: brush, branches, logs, shrubs	
EAB and other diseased tree/shrub waste	

Yard Waste Site Use – 570,000+ site visits/yr.



What Happens to the Yard Waste?

- 80,000+ cubic yards of leaves/grass/garden wastes (2023)
- 312,000+ cubic yards of tree/shrub waste (2023)
- Movement & processing of materials:
 - Contracted Haulers
 - Public Works
- Composting occurs only at the White Bear Township site
- Leaves/grass from other 6 sites go to commercial/private facilities
- Majority of mulch is used to produce energy; small amount left on site for residents to take



Other options for residents:

- Backyard Composting
- Garbage haulers who collect yard waste separately
- Other municipal programs (Roseville)
- Private operations, including transfer stations and tree services



Jumping Worms

- Invasive pest
- Adults/eggs/cocoons can be present in soils and organic matter
- Can damage lawns and gardens by:
 - Changing soil structure
 - Depleting soil nutrients
 - Damaging plant root hairs
- Adults do not overwinter in MN but eggs can, starting a new generation each year
- Not likely to be found in finished compost due to high temps. during composting process and breakdown of food source



Wood Waste/Emerald Ash Borer



TWIN CITIES METRO AREA EMERALD ASH BORER WOOD WASTE STUDY

OCTOBER 2022

PREPARED FOR:

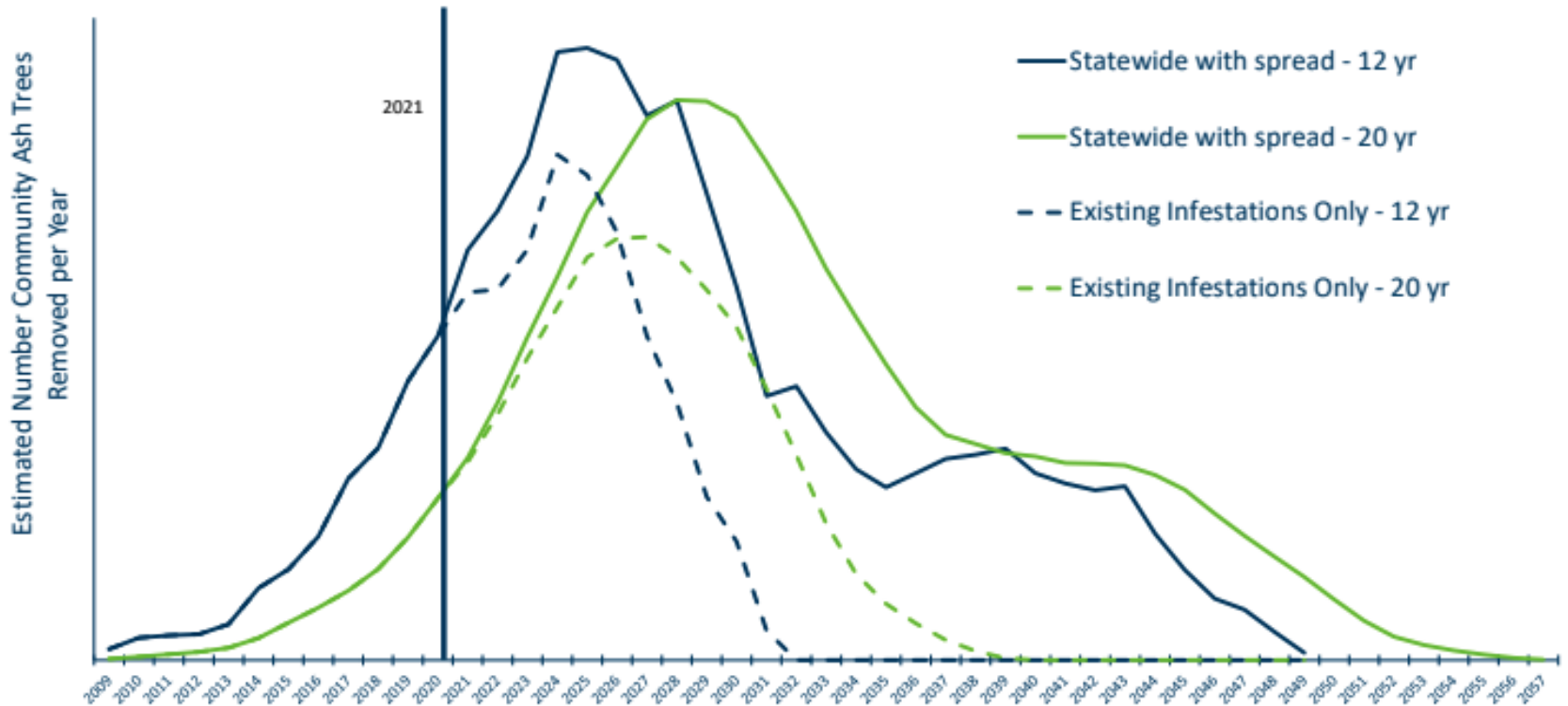


PREPARED BY:



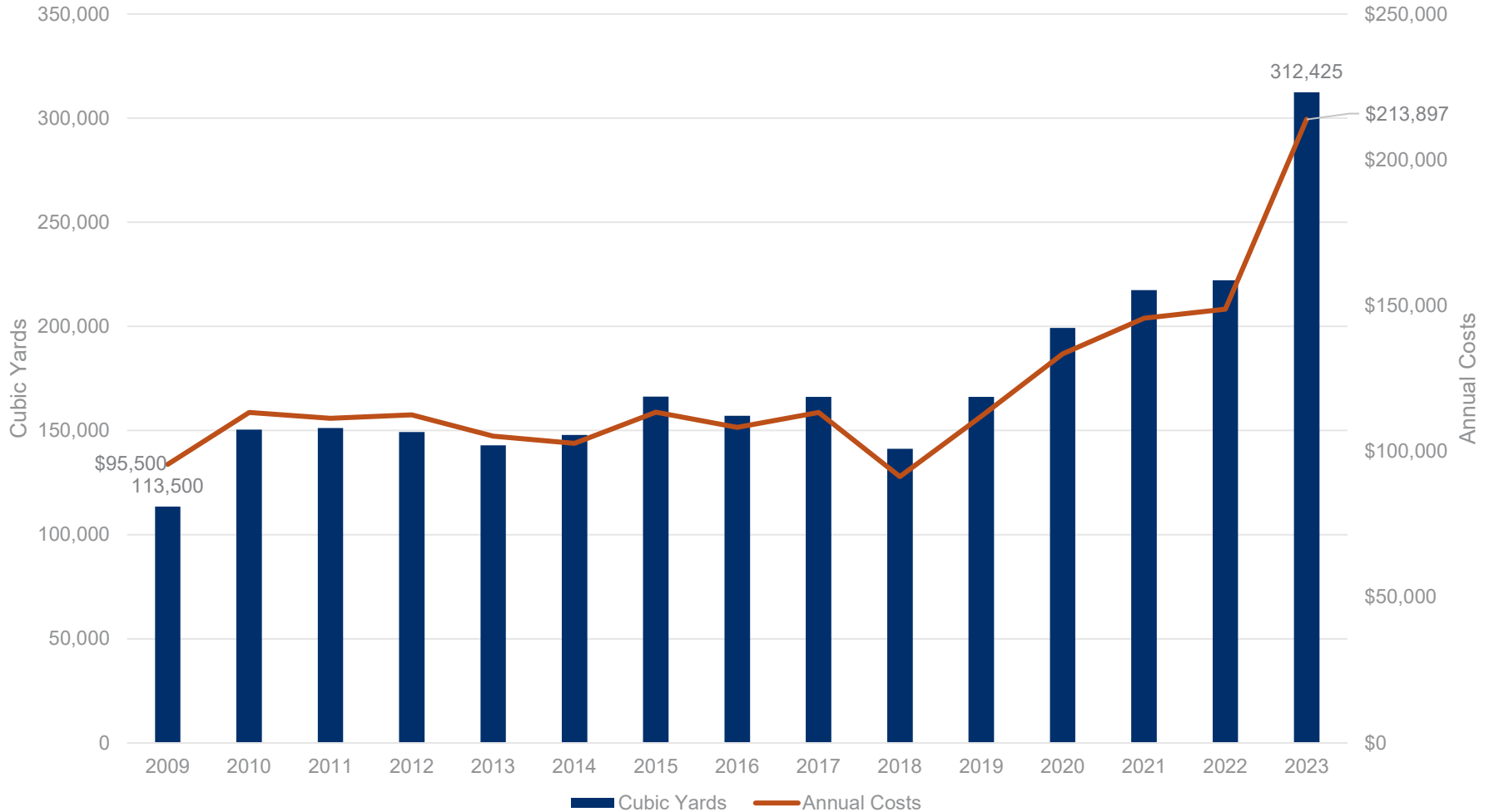
Wood Waste/Emerald Ash Borer cont.

EAB Progression through Minnesota Cities



Wood Waste/Emerald Ash Borer cont.

Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites Brush Volumes and Costs 2009-2023



THANK YOU!

John Springman

Ramsey County

Environmental Health Supervisor

Public Health - Environmental

(651) 266-1150 Work

John.Springman@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US

2785 White Bear Avenue North, Suite 350

Maplewood, MN 55109

john.springman@co.ramsey.mn.us IM